NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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No.			
IND.			

TESTIMONY ON SB 2866 SD1, HD1 RELATING TO COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER REENTRY SYSTEM

by
Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Finance Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 3:30 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) strongly support SB 2866 SD1, HD1, and its amendments to modify Section 353H, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which creates a centralized Offender Reentry Office to oversee and monitor reentry functions and delete references to offender reentry responsibilities from Section 353-10, HRS. The Offender Reentry Office will specialize in designing, monitoring, and evaluating programs and services to reduce recidivism, prevent further victimization, and enhance public safety.

The Offender Reentry Office staff works with and assists departmental staff and community providers to prepare sentenced offenders transitioning to the community through programs and activities that best reflect evidence-based programming for inmates. A variety of programs and services are essential during an offender's transition to the community. These services target risk-need assessments, criminogenic areas, vocational preparedness, victim services, and quality assurance. As a result of these programs and services an offender

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transitioning to the community from a correctional center/facility will acquire the appropriate skills and treatment to renter the community and reduce recidivism.

In conclusion, PSD strongly supports the passage of SB 2866 SD1, HD1, which would centralize reentry functions in the Department. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



Committee:

Committee on Finance

Hearing Date/Time:

Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 3:30 p.m.

Place:

Conference Room 308

Re:

Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of S.B. 2866, S.D.1, H.D.1,

Relating to Comprehensive Offender Reentry System

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee on Finance:

The ACLU of Hawaii supports S.B. 2866, S.D.1, H.D.1 and every effort to develop programs and policies that are more cost-efficient and more effective at reducing recidivism than incarceration. Every effort should be made to provide Hawaii's inmates with the support and services they need to become productive and responsible community members.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 45 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple Staff Attorney ACLU of Hawaii

E: office@acluhawaii.org www.acluhawaii.org



Dedicated to safe, responsible, humane and effective drug policies since 1993

March 28, 2012

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair

Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Executive Director

RE: SB 2866 SD1 HD1 Relating to Comprehensive Offender Reentry System

Hearing: March 28, 2012, 3:30 p.m., Room 308

Position: Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in support of SB 2866 SD1 HD1 Relating to Comprehensive Offender Reentry System to address the goals of HRS §353H.

DPFH supports efforts to implement a comprehensive reentry system as comprehensive services are important to reduce recidivism and to enable successful transition back into the community. Successful reentry of those leaving prison also improves public safety.

We strongly support a Reentry Commission that is inclusive of the businesses, churches, community organizations, people formerly incarcerated and concerned citizens since it will take all of us to build a system that strengthens our communities.

We urge the committee to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

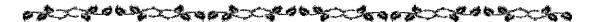
P.O. Box 241042 Honolulu, HI 96824-1042

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COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:30 p.m. Room 308

SUPPORT SB 2866 with Amendment – ESTABLISHING REENTRY OFFICE

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for more than a decade. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 6,000 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that almost 1,800 individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 2866 SD1,HD1 establishes the Offender Reentry Office within the Department of Public Safety to address the goals of chapter 353H, Hawaii Revised Statutes. It reconstitutes the Reentry Commission under Act 24, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, with the added duty to ensure that the Comprehensive Offender Reentry System is implemented as soon as practicable and extends the sunset of the Reentry Commission to December 1, 2015. Effective July 1, 2050.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure. Reentry assistance is crucial to prevent recidivism and promote community safety. The community, therefore, plays a vital role in the successful transition of an individual from institutional to community life.

We strongly support a Reentry Commission that is inclusive of the businesses, churches, community organizations, people formerly incarcerated and concerned citizens since it will take all of us to build a system that strengthens our communities.

We respectfully point out that there are some errors in the HD1:

- Page 5, line 15 has SECTION 3. after SECTION 4. This section should be numbered as SECTION
 5.
- The sections thereafter need to be renumbered as SECTIONS 6, 7, AND 8.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. We sincerely hope that the community is viewed as a partner in the Reentry process for those who have lost their way and those who never found it!

Today's Inmate is Comorrow's Keighbor!